



September 24, 2003

Highlights of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2657, Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY 2004

The Conference Report, H. Rept. 108-279, was filed on September 18, 2003.

Noteworthy

- The Conference Report provides \$4.5 billion in total spending – \$3.5 billion in FY04 Budget Authority for the Legislative Branch, and \$937.6 million in FY03 supplemental appropriations. The \$3.5 billion for the Legislative branch is approximately equal to the amount appropriated for FY03 Legislative Branch appropriations. The House-passed version of the bill had \$2.7 billion in FY04 appropriations, while the Senate-passed version had \$3.6 billion in FY04 appropriations.
- The Conference Report provides \$716 million in funding for the Senate and \$1 billion in funding for the House.
- The Conference Report includes \$937.6 million in FY03 supplemental appropriations. Added to the \$983.6 million in supplemental appropriations passed separately in July, this amount essentially meets the \$1.9 billion requested by the President. The supplemental title in this bill includes: \$60 million to the Corps of Engineers for flood control and coastal emergencies; \$441.7 million in disaster relief; \$36 million for wildland fire management to the Bureau of Land Management; \$5 million to the Fish and Wildlife Service for emergency expenses at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge; \$283 million to the Forest Service for wildland fire management activities; and \$50 million to NASA for necessary expenses for responding to the Space Shuttle Columbia accident.
- The Conference Report includes \$47.8 million in additional funds needed to complete the Capitol Visitor Center project. This amount is based on the GAO's review of the project and its assessment of a cost-to-complete estimate prepared by a third party.
- The House of Representatives passed the Conference Report on September 24 by a vote of 371-56.

Highlights

The Conference Report provides \$3.5 billion in FY04 Budget Authority. Highlights are listed below.

Senate funding: The Conference Report provides \$716 million (\$2 million less the Senate-passed bill).

Joint Economic Committee: The Conference Report provides \$4 million (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Joint Committee on Taxation: The Conference Report provides \$8.1 million (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Capitol Police: The Conference Report provides \$197.6 in salaries and \$23.5 million in general expenses (\$10 million less in salaries and \$9.5 million less in general expenses than the amounts included in the Senate-passed bill).

Congressional Budget Office: The Conference Report provides \$34 million (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Architect of the Capitol: The Conference Report provides \$405 million (\$47.2 million more than the Senate-passed bill), to include \$47.8 million for the Capitol Visitor Center (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill). The \$405 million includes:

- \$77.1 million for general administration (\$5.4 million less than the amount included in the Senate-passed bill);
- \$28.2 million for the Capitol Building (\$400 thousand more than the Senate-passed bill);
- \$63.4 million for the Senate Office Buildings (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill); and
- \$81.5 million for the Capitol power plant (\$7.5 million less than the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Library of Congress: The Conference Report provides \$528 million (\$5.3 million more than the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

CRS: The Conference Report provides \$91.7 million (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Government Printing Office: The Conference Report provides \$91.1 million (same as the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Government Accounting Office: The Conference Report provides \$460 million (\$2.1 million less than the amount included in the Senate-passed bill).

Supplemental

The FY03 supplemental appropriations amount to \$937.6 million. Including the \$983.6 million passed separately in July (see P.L. 108-69), this amounts to a total of \$1.9 billion, or slightly more than the President's request of \$1.89 billion.

Highlights of Supplemental Funding

Corps of Engineers: Provides \$60 million for flood control and coastal emergencies.

Disaster Relief: The Conference Report provides \$441.7 million instead of the \$1.5 billion originally proposed by the House and Senate. This amount is in addition to the \$983.6 million made available for this program in P.L. 108-69.

Bureau of Land Management: The Conference Report provides \$36 million for wildland fire management, as proposed by the House, instead of the \$61 million proposed by the Senate. The \$25 million recommended by the Senate for wildfire hazard reduction activities is included under the Forest Service wildland fire management account.

Fish and Wildlife Service: The Conference Report provides \$5 million for emergency expenses at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge instead of no funding recommended by the Senate.

Forest Service: The Conference Report provides \$283 million for wildland fire management activities as proposed by the House rather than the \$253 million proposed by the Senate.

NASA: The Conference Report provides \$50 million for necessary expenses for responding to the Space Shuttle Columbia accident.

The Judiciary: The Conference Report provides \$32 million for Courts and Defender Services.

Americorps: No funds were provided. The Senate-passed bill provided \$100 million in unrequested FY03 funds.